

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00221 251727Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4873

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK 1169

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RH, XJ

SUBJ: ANC AND ZAMBIAN PRESS REACTION TO SMITH'S REJECTION OF BRITISH
PROPOSALS

SUMMARY: JAN 24 ANC STATEMENT LABELS AS FICTITIOUS THE IDEA
THAT RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE COULD BE ACHIEVED IF DEPENDENT
ON SMITH'S PERMISSION AND CRITICIZED BRITISH "KIDGLOVE"
TREATMENT OF SMITH. TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL LABELING SMITH
ACTION AS EXPECTED SEES THE MAKING OF TRAGEDY IF SMITH WORKS OUT
A SHAM INDEPENDENCE WITH FORMERLY RESPECTABLE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS.
WHILE THE DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL OPENS WITH SATISFACTION THAT SMITH
DECISION HAS DISPERSED AN UNREAL AIR OF EUPHORIA, IT CONCLUDES
ON SOMBER NOTE THAT HOT WAR HAS COME TO AFRICA, THE RESULT OF WHICH
WILL DESTROY ALL THE GOODWILL BUILD UP BETWEEN THE RACES OVER
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00221 251727Z

THE YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. ANC/NKOMO STATEMENT, ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO SMITH'S REJECTION
OF BRITISH PROPOSALS, LABELS AS FICTITIOUS THE IDEA THAT RHODESIAN
INDEPENDENCE COULD BE ACHIEVED IF DEPENDENT ON SMITH'S PERMISSION.
BRITISH "KIDGLOVE" TREATMENT OF SMITH HAD ONLY MADE HIM EVER MORE
ARROGANT AND AGGRESSIVE. STATEMENT ASSERTS THAT YOU "CAN'T

WIN AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE WHAT YOU HAVEN'T WON ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AND THE PRIORITY REQUIREMENT IS THE DEFEAT OF THE SMITH REGIME." STATEMENT CALLS FOR ALL WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO RHODESIA'S LEGAL INDEPENDENCE TO THROW THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND "THE POLICY OF ARMED REVOLUTION AND THE POLICIES OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT."

2. IN ITS JANUARY 25 EDITORIAL THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA, NOTING THAT SMITH'S REJECTION OF THE BRITISH PROPOSALS WAS NOT UNEXPECTED, OBSERVES THAT SMITH'S ACTION IS BUT ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION THAT ONLY FORCE WILL MAKE HIM YIELD. SMITH'S REJECTION REINFORCES THE ARGUMENT OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHO MAINTAIN THAT ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE CAN COME ONLY THROUGH THE BARREL OF A GUN. THE EDITORIAL SEES AS AN ALARMING ASPECT OF THE SITUATION THAT SMITH THINKS HE CAN WORK A DEAL WITH SOME RHODESIANS. IN THE CASE OF ZUPO THIS IS NOT A THREAT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WON'T BE HOODWINKED. HOWEVER, APPROACHES TO NATIONALISTS WHO WERE FORMERLY RESPECTABLE TO THE RHODESIAN MASSES COULD LEAD TO A TRAGEDY. ANY INDEPENDENCE SECURED BY DEALING WITH SMITH WILL MEAN NOTHING TO ZIMBABWEANS, OR THE WORLD AND INEVITABLY LEAD TO A CIVIL WAR BECAUSE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WILL NOT HALT THE STRUGGLE UNTIL TRUE INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED.

3. DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL OF JANUARY 25 OPENS WITH CLAIM THAT SMITH'S REJECTION WAS THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED. SMITH'S ACTION DESTROYS THE AIR OF EUPHORIA ACCOMPANYING THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH OBSCURED THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, IT PROVIDES THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WITH A SET TARGET, RIDDANCE OF THE LAST SETTLER, IN A WINNER TAKE ALL CONTEXT. HOWEVER, IN CONCLUDING, THE EDITORIAL ADOPTS A SOMBER UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00221 251727Z

TONE AND NOTES THAT SMITH'S DECISION MEANS A BLOODY RACIAL WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WILL DESTROY ALL THE GOODWILL BUILT UP BETWEEN THE RACES OVER THE YEARS. AFRICA, ESPECIALLY THE FRONTLINE STATES, IS FACED WITH A HOT WAR, WHICH WILL MEAN SACRIFICES IN BLOOD AND SWEAT, BUT "THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL TO MAKE THE WAR QUICK, BRISK AND RUTHLESSLY SHORT."
LOW

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